

# Juvenile Court Mental Health Services

Department of Mental Health

Gia Crecelius, MD

Jane Tesoro, PharmD

# JCMHS Services

- \*Review of Psychotropic Medication Authorization forms
- \*Clinical consultation to Dependency Court
- \*DMH representation to the Crossover Youth Project

# JCMHS Services

- \*JCMHS is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of four child and adolescent psychiatrists, a psychiatric clinical pharmacist, a clinical psychologist, several psychiatric nurses and several psychiatric social workers.

# Psychotropic Medication Authorization

- \*8,000 - 12,000 psychotropic medication authorization forms (PMAs) from the dependency and the delinquency systems come through our office every year.
- \*We make a recommendation to the court whether the PMA should be approved or denied or whether it should be approved with modifications.
- \*JCMHS DOES NOT provide or withhold consent. The judicial officer is responsible for providing consent.

# PMA Review Process

- \*DMH has formal practice parameters for the use of psychotropic medications in children and adolescents.
- \*DMH convenes a practice parameters workgroup quarterly.
- \*The workgroup consists of DMH and community psychiatrists and pharmacists and representatives from both USC and UCLA.
- \*Review of the PMAs is based on DMH practice parameters and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry practice parameters.

# PMA Review Process

- \*Demographic Data

- \*Age

- \*Weight

- \*Height

- \*Gender

- \*Ethnicity

- \*Placement

# PMA Review Process

- \*Narrative: description of symptoms, duration and severity of symptoms, response to medications, past medication history
- \*Diagnosis: as it relates to symptoms
- \*Non-medication treatments

# PMA Review Process

- \*Medical Conditions

- \*Cardiac disorder

- \*Seizure disorder

- \*Others

- \*Non-psychotropic medications



# PMA Review Process

- \*Psychotropic Medications
  - \*Type of medications
  - \*Number of medications and interactions
  - \*Maximum dosage of medications
  - \*New or continuing medications
  - \*Past medication history
  - \*Plan

# PMA Review Process

## \*Labs

- \*Are appropriate lab tests being done/monitored/ordered?
- \*How recent is lab data and how frequently are labs being checked?

# PMA Review Process

## \*Initial Review Decision:

- \* Yes - Attach review page and send to court
- \* No - Attempt to contact physician for clarification, review history, alert judicial officer if necessary
- \* ? - Attempt to contact physician for clarification, may recommend consent for 45 days to allow time for follow-up, alert judicial officer if necessary

# JCMHS Consultation Service

- \*JCMHS provides a consultation service to the Dependency Courts.
- \*We accept referrals for questions about mental health issues.
- \*We are able to review medication management, assist with diagnostic questions, assist in linkage to services, etc. Referrals must have a mental health component.

# JCMHS Consultation Service

- \*If we open a case, we do a face-to-face evaluation with the child/adolescent.
- \*We are able to consult with caregivers, group-homes, residential placements.
- \*Since we are a consultation service, we only make recommendations. It is up to the attorneys/judicial officers to act upon them.
- \*We do not provide treatment or conduct psychological/psychoeducational testing.

# JCMHS Consultation Process

- \*Referrals: as they pertain to medication questions
  - \*Unresolved PMA problems - contact child's attorney and/or judicial officer for referral to assess the child
  - \*Child's attorney and/or judicial officer can contact JCMHS for help with the child's mental health needs

# JCMHS Consultation Process

## \*Consultation Process:

- \*Review of records
- \*Gather information from all available sources
- \*Perform face-to-face assessment
- \*Consult with treating physicians/therapists/school/caretakers/other personnel
- \*Assist with Team Decision Meeting arrangement

# JCMHS Consultation Process

- \* Provide written report to court including assessment and recommendations
- \* Assist with linkage to services
- \* We are always available to meet with judicial officers and attorneys to review consultation and recommendation.



# PMA Parameters

- Implemented in May 2013
- Guidelines for prescribing psychotropic medication in the dependency and delinquency systems
- Prescribing outside of the parameters triggers an evaluation by one of our child psychiatrists

# 0-5 Age Group

- 2 or more medications
- Only stimulant, alpha adrenergic, Strattera or Risperdal/Abilify for Pervasive Developmental Disorder

# 6-8 Age Group

- 3 or more medications
- 2 antipsychotics
- 2 mood stabilizers
- 2 antidepressants
- 2 hypnotics
- 2 stimulants

# 9-17 Age Group

- 4 or more medications
- 2 antipsychotics
- 2 mood stabilizers
- 2 antidepressants
- 2 hypnotics
- 2 stimulants

# Psychiatric Assessment

- If consultation is triggered, JCMHS will assign a child psychiatrist and either a psychiatric nurse or psychiatric social worker to conduct an assessment
- Assessment will be provided to the child's attorney and judicial officer
- Specific recommendations are made for medication management

# JCMHS Consultation

- \*JCMHS performed approximately 500 consultations in 2014 at the request of dependency attorneys and judicial officers.
- \*32 of those consultations were PMA protocol cases